

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the figures as shown in the enclosed replacement sheets. The changes include being designated by a "Prior Art" legend in Figures 11-13B, as requested by the Examiner. No new matter is added in the substitute drawings.

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1 is allowed. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5-8 contain allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-8 were pending in this application. Claim 2 has been canceled by way of this reply without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-8 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 3 and 5 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 3 or claim 5.

Claim Amendments

Claim 3 has been amended set forth above. Specifically, claim 3 has been amended to be in independent form and to require that the auxiliary plate be partially cut away to form a cord inserting part for passing the cord at a side of the auxiliary plate. No new matter has been amended by way of this amendment, as support for this amendment to claim 3 may be found, for example, in Figures 2 and 6-8 of the Specification as originally filed.

Claim 5 has been amended to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 5, as amended, is now allowable.

Objections

The Examiner has objected to the drawings. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that Figures 11-13B should be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art." The drawings have been

amended in this reply in view of this objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art stated in page 1, line 8 through page 2, line 16, and indicated in Figures 11-13B (hereinafter "AAPA"), in view of JP Patent No. JP 51-41667 (hereinafter "SEIKO"). Claim 2 has been canceled by way of this reply without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, this rejection to claim 2 is now moot. Further, claim 3 has been amended as set forth above. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed for the reason set forth below.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner must show that the prior art references, when combined, teach or suggest all of the claim limitations (*see* MPEP § 2143). Applicant respectfully asserts that whether considered separately or in combination, AAPA and SEIKO do not show or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 3.

Independent claim 3 requires, in part, "the auxiliary plate being partially cut away to form a cord inserting part for passing the cord at a side of the auxiliary plate."

With respect to claim 3, the Examiner alleges that left end portion of metallic plate 8 in Figure 13B, as taught by AAPA, corresponds to the auxiliary plate as required by claim 3.

However, in contrast to independent claim 3, AAPA fails to show or suggest at least that the auxiliary plate is partially cut away to form a cord inserting part for passing the cord at a side of the auxiliary plate, as required by amended independent claim 3. In fact, in clear contrast to claim 3, AAPA discloses that the metal plate 8 has a cord inserting part above the metal plate 8

(see AAPA, Figures 11 and 13B). Also, because AAPA does not have a movable lid and the metallic plate 8 is fixed by the screw 9 to the chassis 5 from the bottom of the cabinet 1, AAPA necessarily does not have the auxiliary plate partially cut away to form a cord inserting part for passing the cord at a side of the auxiliary plate, as required by amended independent claim 3 (see AAPA, Figures 11-13 and page 2, lines 11-12).

In addition, as acknowledged by the Examiner, SEIKO is completely silent with respect to “the auxiliary plate being partially cut away to form a cord inserting part for passing the cord at a side of the auxiliary plate,” as required by amended claim 3. Accordingly, SEIKO does not show or suggest at least the above limitation of amended independent claim 3. Further, SEIKO does not show or suggest that which AAPA lacks.

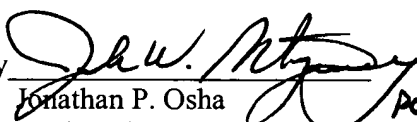
In view of the above, AAPA and SEIKO, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the invention as recited in independent claim 3. Thus, independent claim 3 is patentable over AAPA and SEIKO. Claim 4, directly dependent from claim 3, is allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04995/126001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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